

CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY
Ploërmel + Nantes + Huelgoat + Bonen
'To know Jesus Christ and make Him Known'

La Source, 16 place de Lamennais, Ploërmel, Tel: 02 97 74 24 82

July/August 2006 - Prayer focus:

- The advertisement for a new Priest-in-Charge will appear in the Church press during the month of July and we ask that the right appointment may be made.

CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY – PART OF THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE (CHURCH OF ENGLAND) AND SUPPORTED BY ICS (THE INTERCONTINENTAL CHURCH SOCIETY)

Website: christchurchbrittany.org.uk

Priest-in-Charge:	Currently vacant
Reader:	Robin Hillman Tel: 02 97 51 74 26 (e-mail: kermoran@wanadoo.fr)
Clergy with permission to officiate:	The Revd Michael Grainger, 1, impasse Edith Piaf, Kerbrégent, 56930 Plumeliau; Tel: 02 97 51 91 28 e-mail: michaelgrainger@wanadoo.fr The Revd Dr John Marvell, 3, impasse des Genêts, La Vicomté, 35800 Dinard; Tel: 02 99 16 56 74 e-mail: jmarvell@ctanet.fr
Churchwardens:	Greg West (Tel: 02 97 93 57 87 e-mail: ghwest@wanadoo.fr) Chris Wilson (Tel: 02 97 72 19 29) e-mail: wilson.christopher@wanadoo.fr
Deputy Wardens:	Malcolm Dunford (Tel: 02 97 27 15 58) e-mail: mdunford@wanadoo.fr Greg Woodhouse (Tel: 02 99 70 29 71) e-mail: Edna.Woodhouse@bjinsurance.co.uk
Nantes:	Peter Beninger (Tel: 02 51 12 56 51) e-mail: peter.beninger@univ-nantes.fr
Huelgoat:	Wendy Sourceau-Bishop (Tel: 02 98 67 66 58) e-mail: wendy.bishop@wanadoo.fr
Bonen:	Robin or Laura Hillman (details as above)

Newsletter Contributions

If you have contributions to the Christ Church newsletter please email them to Vicki and Andrew Lewer, Argoat Communications, andrew.lewer@libertysurf.fr. The deadline for contributions for the September issue is 18th August. Many thanks.

SERVICE DETAILS – Ploërmel (all services at 11am)

JULY

- 2nd HOLY COMMUNION
Celebrant: The Revd Michael Grainger
- 9th HOLY COMMUNION
Celebrant: The Revd Dr John Marvell
- 16th HOLY COMMUNION
Celebrant: The Revd Dr John Marvell
- 23rd SERVICE OF THE WORD
- 30th HOLY COMMUNION
Celebrant: Hazel Door

AUGUST

- 6th HOLY COMMUNION
Celebrant: The Revd Michael Grainger
- 13th HOLY COMMUNION
Celebrant: The Revd Dr John Marvell
- 20th HOLY COMMUNION
Celebrant: The Revd Michael Grainger
- 27th ALL-AGE WORSHIP

SERVICE DETAILS – other areas

BONEN

JULY 23rd, AUGUST 27th 10.30: HOLY COMMUNION
Celebrant: The Revd Michael Grainger

NANTES (Communion service every 2nd Sunday at 18.30)

HUELGOAT (Each Sunday - 11.00 - Fellowship meeting)

TUESDAYS - JULY 18th, AUGUST 15th 18.30: Holy Communion,
Celebrant: The Revd Michael Grainger

For further information about any of the services please get in touch with a Churchwarden, Reader, or contact as shown earlier in this letter.

More dates for your diary...

Thursday 3rd August – Carnac, Locmaria Plage

Join us at 11am for the annual ecumenical service which will be held outdoors if fine followed by a picnic. Come and meet representatives of the French Roman Catholic and Reformed churches as well as holidaymakers of different nationalities and the ICS campsite Chaplain. Père Lambert, the priest at Carnac, was formerly at Ploërmel and is a good friend of Christ Church, Brittany. Why not make it into a day out and spend the afternoon visiting one of the lovely beaches in the area or exploring the famous standing stones? Further info from Robin/Laura Hillman 02 97 51 74 26.

Fund Raising

As we write we are approaching the date of the BBQ being held at Greg and Edna Woodhouse's home followed by a visit to the Fête de la Musique at Redon. So far we have 30 people who will be attending so we are looking forward to a great evening. Two further events are currently being planned as follows:

The first is a 'vide-grenier' being held at Montertelot on Tuesday 15th August, for which we need goods to sell and helpers on the day (we need to know this soon as possible please as the stalls are costed by size and we need to estimate how much we will be trying to sell on the day). This is usually a very well attended event with many English speaking people in

particular calling in and we are hoping therefore not only to raise money but to raise the awareness of Christ Church and La Source. Please contact Helen Edge (02 97 74 97 96).

Secondly we are planning a 'Concert Party' on Wednesday 25th or Thursday 26th October. We already have a number of people willing to perform, including dancers, singers etc but would like more acts and also helpers for a range of tasks including admission on the night, refreshments, advertising etc. It doesn't have to be anything special for the acts; just a favourite reading from the Bible would be most welcome, so give it some thought and have a go. Please sign up as indicated for 'On the move!' below.

Also a reminder that you can support La Source by becoming a member for 10 Euros a year for residents and 5 Euros a year for non-residents. Membership includes use of the Library. Also, if you wish, you will then have voting rights for major decisions affecting La Source and it will help to show solidarity of numbers, which will be very helpful when applying for grants. Once again, any input from you will be much appreciated.

Helen Edge

On the Move!

As you are probably aware Christ Church and La Source are planning to move to Le Centre de la Mennais by mid-September. We are currently collecting information on volunteers who can help with the moves and with preparing the new rooms we will be occupying. You can sign up in person at Church or at La Source or ring La Source during opening times, on 02 97 74 24 82 – Mon, Wed and Fri between 10.00am to 12.00am and 2.00pm to 4.00 pm. We will also need volunteers at La Source after the move to clean and tidy up the rooms before the lease expires. Please contact Chris/Elaine Wilson (02 97 72 19 29) or Helen Edge (02 97 74 97 96) if you would like more information or you would like to add your name to the list of helpers. Thanking you in advance.

News from La Vendee

The dust is settling; the boxes are being unpacked; the cats are exploring the new territory and discovering lizards; and we are beginning our new life in a new region. As we write we have just completed our first teaching week at Le Pas Opton – French home of Spring Harvest – and have had the privilege of ministering to people from the UK and France, and of seeing lives touched by the Gospel. Our topic for the week was 'Unacceptable People' and how we as Christians have the responsibility of welcoming everyone to our churches, no matter their background or their past. We looked at a murderer: Moses; an adulterer: David; a prostitute: Rahab; a child: Samuel; a cheat: Zacchaeus; and a doubter: Thomas, all seen by many as unacceptable – but made acceptable by and through their relationship with the Father God. We also explored how each of us, without exception, has these characteristics within us and can only be changed by the Good News of Jesus Christ. It was humbling to hear people admit to recognising murderous thoughts, cheating etc, in their lives, and seeking God's forgiveness.

Now we begin our work of pastoral and spiritual care and support at LPO and in the wider community. Please pray as we seek God's guidance in setting up the 'Joie de Vie' Christian Fellowship and Outreach Centre.

We want to thank you all for your partnership in founding and growing Christ Church Brittany over the past six and a half years. Thank you, too, for your generous words and gifts, and a delicious shared meal, on Easter Day. We had a great send off and thank everyone who helped to make the worship that day very special.

But our greatest thanks must go to Our Father who has guided and upheld us as we have travelled with him. Without his faithfulness and love we would never have had the strength to fulfil His mission – a mission now entrusted to you all as you seek a new Priest-in-Charge.

These verses have become very important to us over the last few weeks, and we offer it to you as an encouragement.

Proverbs 3: 5 & 6; "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight".

Good bless you all, **Roger & Beri**

Film-watchers may remember Contact, starring Jodie Foster in which an alien race in a far off galaxy make contact with the human race through three dimensional formula and by transmitting back to earth an early television broadcast of Hitler being authoritative.

Perhaps there are aliens 'up there' even now enjoying early editions of the Goon Show. It is a constant reminder of my passing of years to meet more and more people who have missed out on those cultural episodes.

Jesus said: "Listen and understand! No one is defiled by what goes into his mouth; only by what comes out of it." (Matthew 15:11). We need to be careful (full of care?) when we speak not only because it has the ability to harm others but also because words have an eternal dimension.

It is good to think of beautiful music and wonderful song going on and on into infinite space - what is bad is to realise that all the sounds of war continue.....somewhere.

In our worship (giving worth to God) both private and public, we should think about what we are doing. I am keen to see not only the best of prayer and song in our services but also to find space for silence. To listen to God - to absorb what the Spirit is saying to us. Perhaps we might incorporate a minute's silence after each Bible reading which gives time for understanding and gives honour to the Word of God.

The practice of silent prayer has a long tradition in the Christian faith going back to the Desert Fathers in Egypt and Turkey. Call it meditation and some will associate it solely with some of the exotic religions of the East but there is a growing interest in this practice of just being 'open to God'. For further information on this you can look at www.christian-meditation.co.uk or www.wccm.org which are the web sites of the ecumenical family of Christian meditators.

Michael Grainger

God of Surprises!

You certainly never know what to expect next in the Christian life. One morning recently I received a telephone call from a lady called Maria in London who asked me if I would give an interview to Premier Christian Radio about life in France and, more particularly, about Christ Church, Brittany. She had read our website and had been interested in the article I wrote several years ago about the beginnings of the church. I agreed with some trepidation and was rung up at 9.20 on June 14th to talk to Justin who was broadcasting Inspirational Breakfast live from Le Pas Opton, the Spring Harvest Campsite in the Vendée. I could hear the sounds of a worship song in the background and then it was over to me. "Just forget you're on the radio and act as if you were talking normally on the phone" was the advice given by my son. My nerves soon faded as I was asked about our activities and was able to talk about the progress we have made since Roger and Beri first set up the church in 1999. I spoke of the good work being done by the Council and Churchwardens and the help we are receiving from Michael and John to keep Christ Church flourishing until we have a new Priest-in-Charge. In answer to the question "Are you easy to find?" I had to admit that people sometimes get lost in Ploërmel but that this should be less of a problem when we move to the new building.

To listen to Premier Christian Radio tune in to Medium Wave 1305, 1332 or 1413, get up the website www.premier.org.uk, or find it on Freeview channel 725 or Sky Digital 0123.

Laura Hillman

News from ICS

A new chaplain for...

So what have an attractive market town north of Paris and the Falkland Islands in common – is it penguins, fish, lace or oil? No! Rather, each have Anglican churches and need new chaplains. Chantilly was founded in 1841 by ICS, and we have recruited its chaplains ever since. With an attractive church centre, growing youth and children's work and excellent community and inter-church relations, this church is poised for growth...as is the Cathedral in Port Stanley which ministers the scattered population of 2500 and to thousands of tourists who visit annually. For these every different contexts, we need chaplains who are both devoted to Christ and who can cope with both a multicultural context and with isolation (the Falklands is in the South Atlantic!). They also need the right gifts to nurture and teach these very different churches so that their desire to spread the good news will grow. Recruitment is a very important part of ICS's work and we are also recruiting for Paris, Lille and Tervuren (near Brussels) this summer.

Please pray for:

- Suitable applicants for each of the vacancies in chaplaincies, and for wisdom for all involved (applicants, the churches, the dioceses, and ICS) in the recruitment process.
- A special Service of Thanksgiving for the restoration of St Bernard's, Wengen, on 23 July.

For more information see www.ics-uk.org

David Healey, Communications Manager, ICS

And finally...

Physicists (who know about things) tell us that sound, once created, does not vanish but spreads, like ripples on a pond, out into space and continues into infinity.

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those held by Christ Church Brittany.